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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/720,523	05/02/2001	Rudolf Ritter	PM275480	1568
22850	7590	01/17/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			FADOK, MARK A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3625	

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/720,523	Applicant(s) RITTER, RUDOLF	
	Examiner Mark Fadok	Art Unit 3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21,22,24,26-31,34 and 36-38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23,25,32,33 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The examiner is in receipt of applicant's response to office action mailed 9/20/2005, which was received 10/18/2005. Acknowledgement is made to the election of Group IA including claims 23,25,32,33 and 35, with traverse.

Drawings

The drawings filed on 11/30/2004 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

Response to Election Traverse

The applicant argues that the examiner violated MPEP 816. The examiner does not understand this argument since the restriction was for species within an invention and not inventions, which is where MPEP 816 is applicable.

Applicant argues that according to MPEP 806.04(f) that there is a requirement of proof from the office to establish distinctness. The examiner has effectively this test in providing the Groupings of species. The burden of proof to overcome this assertion now rests on the applicant as is clearly stated in the office action as follows:

"Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over

the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.”

The applicant clearly has not provided this statement that one species is obvious over the other, so therefore the examiner must surmise that the species are indeed distinct.

Applicant argues that there would not be a serious burden on the examiner to examine the additional distinct inventions per MPEP 803. The examiner disagrees and notes that the restriction of the claims is done apriori and therefore the level of burden cannot be accurately predicted. The examiner maintains that a significant burden is present considering searching the additional claims would result in a 340% increase in searchable claims.

Examiner's Note

Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers or figures in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23,25,32,33 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ali-Vehmas et al (US 6,035,189) in view of Morrill, Jr (US 5,991,749).

In regards to claim 32, Ali-Vehmas discloses a method for selling products over a mobile radio network, the mobile radio network including a plurality of participants and being coupled to a sales module (col 7, lines 1-50), comprising:

broadcasting offer information via the mobile radio network in accordance with a text messaging protocol to the plurality of participants in the mobile radio network, the offer information including an identification of the products and an identification of a vendor of the products (col 7, lines 15-30);

storing quantity information in the sales module, the quantity information indicating an available number of the products provided by the vendor (col 5, lines 65-67);

receiving an order data in the sales module from a participant of the plurality of participants via the mobile radio network in response to the broadcasting, the order data

including a request for a product of the products and an identification of the participant (col 5, lines 65-67);

confirming by the sales module that the available number of the products is greater than zero (col 7, lines 25 and 26);

Ali-Vehmas teaches the use of an intelligent cell phone to communicate reservation of products such as event tickets and a means for payment of such services or products, but does not specifically mention that a token exchangeable for the product is forwarded to both the vendor and the participant. Morrill teaches an order and payment process that sends a confirmation including an authorization code that consummates the sale purchase of goods or services (FIG 1A-1E). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in Ali-Vehmas a token exchangeable for the product is forwarded to both the vendor and the participant, because this will assure that the transaction has been properly authorized and completion of the transaction is confirmed (Morrill, col 1, lines 55-60).

adjusting the quantity information in the sales module based on the token (col 7, line 25).

In regards to claim 23, the combination of Ali-Vehmas and Morrill teach wherein the order data includes a requested quantity of the products (col 5, lines 65-67).

In regards to claim 25, the combination of Ali-Vehmas and Morrill teach wherein the token includes a delivery number (Morrill, FIG 1E).

In regards to claim 33, the combination of Ali-Vehmas and Morrill teach wherein the product includes at least one of goods and services (col 5, lines 64-67).

In regards to claim 35, the combination of Ali-Vehmas and Morrill teach wherein, the text messaging protocol is a SMS protocol, the broadcasting includes transmitting the offer information in multiple SMS short messages to the plurality of participants, and the transmitting of the token to the participant includes transmitting the token in a SMS short message to a mobile communications device of the participant (col 7, lines 5-35).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 23,25,32,33 and 35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mark Fadok** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6755**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Wynn Coggins** can be reached on **(571) 272-7159**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **receptionist** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3600**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 [Official communications; including

After Final communications labeled

"Box AF"]

(571) 273-6755 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]



Mark Fadok

Primary Examiner